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COMPREHENSIVE TEST-BAN TREATY

Letter dated 11 September 1995 from the Permanent Representative of the Philippines to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to bring to your attention the enclosed statement issued on 6 September 1995 by the President of the Republic of the Philippines, Mr. Fidel V. Ramos, on the recent nuclear test by France.

I would be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as an official document of the General Assembly under item 65 of the provisional agenda.

(Signed) Felipe MABILANGAN
Permanent Representative

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ANNEX

Statement issued on 6 September 1995 by the President of the Philippines on the nuclear test conducted by France

I am profoundly disappointed by the news that France, in utter disregard of the concern expressed by many countries and ignoring the appeals of the countries that stand to be directly affected by its action proceeded with its first nuclear test at the Mururoa Atoll.

France has dealt a serious blow to the cause of nuclear disarmament and has severely damaged the credibility of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, which was extended indefinitely last May.

The Philippines is committed to nuclear disarmament and is firmly opposed to the conduct of any nuclear tests, as it is conscious of the serious medium- and long-term environmental and human costs. I have repeatedly appealed to President Chirac to reconsider and cancel the planned tests. I am deeply saddened that he has not heeded my appeal or appeals by other leaders.

France served as a beacon when it led other nuclear-weapon States in observing the moratorium on nuclear testing. Now France has deeply disillusioned the international community by turning its back on its previous restraint and proceeding with the tests.

The Philippines will sustain its initiatives in leading the Group of 77 at international and regional forums to protest nuclear testing by any nation. We again call on France to respect international opinion and heed the concerns expressed by countries in the Pacific Rim, which are most vulnerable to such tests, by cancelling altogether the remaining tests.